21 Cornhill, Boston, Sept. 15/58.

Dear Burleigh;

Yrs. came to hand this morning, and, as I lose no time in replying, I presume it will be right to send this to Cummington. It was quite an oversight in Mr. G., not to have remembered yr. request about mailing to Northampton. — We have been much 'taken aback' at hearing nothing from you, the past week, and yesterday I addressed a letter to Dea. Brown & Mr. Ringman, hoping to clear up matters. Your letter makes all straight. —

Mr. G. does not start for Pennsylvania so soon, by 3 or 4 days, as he at first expected. This will project his time in Ohio farther into October, and of course so much postpone the time of his return. Then he expects to give some lectures in New York State on his return. He ~~could~~ can not name an earlier time for Cummington than Oct. 30th & 31st. — and he will endeavour to give you that time, probably (he says) taking Cummington in his way home. — Please let me know, bye & bye, if, in that case, he had better stop at Hinsdale, or Huntington, or where — & say by what conveyance he ~~is to~~ can best reach C., if coming fr. the West. —

I must thank you, very specially, for the great pains taken to furnish me with lists of names in yr. part of the State. The work which has grown out of our Vermont meetings (printing, and sending off, a similar petition for their Legislature, which meets in October — printing & distributing thro' that State a little pamphlet on the W. Randolph Convention)

and a perfect storm of other business has delayed me in getting off the Petitions into West[n] Massachusetts, and it is not yet done; but this week will see it completed, I trust and your lists will be a main reliance, for that part of the State. — {Before I went to Vermont, I had supplied portions of your part of the State, & more recently, Wallcut has sent to Liberator subscribers there}

Without wishing to hurry you unduly, we would like to have the Repot as soon as you can, without inconvenience get it ready; and I wish you would appoint an afternoon or evening, (while you are in Boston,) for ~~your~~ meeting the Ex. Comtee, & yourself reading to them the Report, or so much of it as you have prepared. Pray remember the necessity of a good degree of Compression & condensation. Funds, time, & the desire to have the report read, all point to ~~the~~ brevity as most devoutly to be wished, — not of course, at the expense of a proper performance of the duty of the Anti-Slavery historian.

Have you rec[d], the 2 sets of Contributions to the Report which I sent you?

Very truly Yours
Sam[l]. May Jr.

Please have it in your mind, when you come here, to take from this office a number of copies of the Petition, that you may leave them about in the waste places of West[n]. Mass[ts]

MS. B.M.G.v.7, p.19